









# Safe Routes to School Program

Mary Meletiou August 14, 2008





### Safe Routes to School Program

- Established in SAFETEA-LU
- North Carolina's allocation is \$15.4 million
- At least 10% must be spent on education & encouragement programs
- No local match required







#### **SRTS Purpose & Objectives**

#### **Purpose:**

- Enable kids to walk & bike to school
- Make biking & walking safer and therefore more appealing
- Facilitate projects that improve safety & reduce traffic around schools

#### **Objectives:**

- Reduce speeds around schools
- Improve pedestrian & bicycle safety
- Improve pedestrian & bicycle access







# FHWA Program Guidelines - Desired Outcomes

- Increased bike & pedestrian traffic safety
- More kids walking & biking to school
- Decreased congestion
- Improved childhood health
- Reduced childhood obesity
- Encouragement of active, healthy lifestyles
- Improved air quality

- Improved community safety & security
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Enhanced community accessibility
- Greater public involvement
- Improved non-motorized infrastructure
- More interest in bike & pedestrian accommodations







# **Elements of SRTS Programs**

Engineering

Education

Encouragement

Enforcement

Evaluation













# **North Carolina's Program**

- Community Workshops
- Action Plan Service Awards
- Infrastructure Reimbursement Grant
- Non-Infrastructure Reimbursement Grants
- Highway Division Funds
- Demonstration Projects









# **Community Workshops**

One-day workshops held at over 25 schools











#### **Action Plan Service Awards**

- Albemarle
- Archdale
- Belmont
- Black Mountain
- Carrboro
- Chadbourn
- Cumberland County
- Marion

- Mooresville
- Orange County
- Pilot Mountain
- Saluda
- Shelby
- Spring Hope
- Warren County
- Wilson







#### **Infrastructure Reimbursement Grants**

Call will open in early October

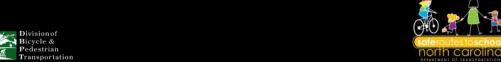






# Non-Infrastructure Reimbursement Grants

- Call for 2009 requests will open in early October
- Five communities awarded in 2008.
  - Davidson
  - Greenville
  - Haw River
  - Holly Springs
  - Shelby





#### **Demonstration Project Locations**

- Apex Olive Chapel Elementary School
- Asheville Emma Elementary School
- Black Mountain Elementary School
- Brevard Elementary School
- Durham Fayetteville Road Elementary School
- Wilmington Bradley Creek Elementary School







### **Funding Categories**

- Infrastructure (\$250,000 maximum per project)
  - Construction projects
  - Signing and signalization
- Non-Infrastructure (\$10,000 to \$50,000 per project)
  - Education
  - Enforcement
  - Encouragement







#### **FHWA Guidance**

#### Infrastructure projects are limited to:

- Improvements that will serve schools with grades K-8.
- Locations within a 2 mile radius of the school.
- Public right-of-way or land with public access easement.







# **FHWA Program Guidelines**

#### **Eligible Infrastructure Projects:**

- Sidewalk improvements
- Traffic calming & speed reduction projects
- Pedestrian & bicycle crossing improvements
- On-street bicycle facilities
- Off-street bicycle parking facilities
- Traffic separation improvements













# **Ineligible Uses of SRTS Funds**

#### Cannot be used:

- to replace existing bike/ped funding streams
- for projects that benefit drivers, including dropoff/pick at schools
- to improve pedestrian facilities leading to bus stops
- to improve bus stops
- for recurring costs, i.e. maintenance







# **Highway Division Funds**

- FY 2008 \$200,000 per Division
- FY 2009 \$230,000 per Division
- Project range \$10,000-\$50,000
- Unspent / uncommitted funds will be reallocated to Divisions with unmet needs

#### When the money runs out...

refer requests to the SRTS Coordinator









### **Highway Division Funds**

- Provide timely, relatively low-cost spot safety improvements
- Projects must be within the r-o-w on state-maintained roadways
- Must be within two miles of a K-8 school
- Community makes request directly to the Division Offices
- The Division Engineer's staff will determine the viability of each project and sends request to DBPT
- DBPT authorizes funds and sends Division Office Notice to Proceed







**Highway Division Funds** 

#### **Project Categories**

- Sidewalks
  - Gap closures, ramps
- Traffic calming
  - Median islands
- On-road bike improvements
  - Marked bike lanes
  - Signing
- Crossing upgrades
  - High visibility crosswalks
  - Signalization and signing











Diagonal Ramp





Hazardous Crosswalk









Median Refuge Island, High Visibility Pedestrian Crosswalk & Countdown Signal







#### How to be Involved

- Attend SRTS community workshops in your Division
- Serve on local SRTS committees in your Division
- Provide data upon request
- Assist in evaluating condition of existing facilities
- Provide mapping assistance
- Provide guidance on feasibility & appropriateness of various infrastructure treatments









#### **SRTS Program Timeline**

#### 2007-08 Cycle (awards announced, projects underway)

6 Demonstration Projects

16 Action Plan Service Awards

5 Non-Infrastructure Projects

#### 2008-09 Cycle (Infrastructure & Non-Infrastructure)

Oct 6, 2008 Call for Applications

Feb 27, 2009 Application Deadline

May, 2009 Review Committee Meets

June, 2009 BOT approves Awards

Dec, 2009 Deadline for Reimbursement Agreements















### For more information, contact

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